

July 15, 2016

RE: Amendment to Section 4.18 (5) of the Zoning By-Law on a temporary basis to permit amplified music and dancing on patios.

Dear Council and Planning and Environment Committee Members,

There have been several attempts to gather more information on the zoning amendment 'test' regarding amplified music on patios. In June of this year, we made a request for a community meeting with by-law enforcement regarding amplified music on patios but our request for a meeting was never answered.

We also wrote to Chuck Parker asking a few questions regarding how noise complaints would be handled during the two month testing period and what criteria would be used to measure the success or failure of the amended zoning by-law.

As I write this, we have not received replies to our questions that would have informed our comments on this proposal.

Given the high density of patios in this neighbourhood; how problematic noise pollution is in this neighbourhood; and that we have fought this battle in recent years; that there are currently licensing violations against the Barking Frog; and that the Ceeps already has a grandfathered provision to allow some amplified music on its patio; and that music on patios can be tested in other areas that are more appropriately buffered from residential areas; and that the overwhelming community consensus remains that amplified music on patios is not welcomed because it reduces our quality of life, we are asking that:

The North Talbot Neighbourhood be exempt from any test and future consideration that would relax the noise by-law and allow for amplified music on patios until there is "to be determined" through community consultation.

We would welcome a community meeting to discuss this further.

Please note, there is genuine skepticism whether a public meeting held only two weeks prior to the commencement of the 'test' is designed to address public concerns. And there is a genuine perception that decision makers who do not live in close proximity to patios are disconnected to the realities of doing so.

Sincerely,

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